



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OPERATION LUCKY CHARM
9 MEN, 1 WOMAN INDICTED
FOR METH CONSPIRACY, ILLEGAL FIREARM

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that nine men and one woman were indicted by a federal grand jury today in three separate cases arising from Operation Lucky Charm.

“Operation Lucky Charm was a joint investigation by local, state and federal law enforcement agencies into a large quantity of methamphetamine being distributed in southwest Missouri,” Graves said. “Law enforcement officers seized more than 10 pounds of methamphetamine in the course of this investigation.”

USA vs. Adan Mendez-Rivera, et al

Adan Mendez-Rivera, 26, **Raul Alberto-Guerrero**, 31, and **Geronimo Velasquez-Gomez**, 28, all citizens of Mexico residing in Carthage, Mo., **Carlos Mulgado**, 36, also of Carthage, **Polo Hinojosa-Garcia**, 24, a Mexican national residing the Joplin, Mo., area, **Noel Fonseca-Garcia**, 20, a Mexican national residing in Pittsburg, Kan., and **Armando Figueroa-Dominguez**, 31, a Mexican national residing in of Rogers, Ark., were charged in an 11-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield. Today’s indictment replaces two federal criminal complaints filed in August in U.S. District Court in Springfield.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that the co-defendants participated in a conspiracy to distribute in excess of 500 grams of methamphetamine from Aug. 4 to 30, 2005, in Jasper County.

Counts Two and Three of the federal indictment allege that **Hinojosa-Garcia** distributed methamphetamine on Aug. 4 and 9, 2005, respectively, in Jasper County.

Count Four of the federal indictment alleges that **Hinojosa-Garcia** and **Fonseca-Garcia** aided and abetted each other to distribute methamphetamine on Aug. 5, 2005, in Jasper County.

Count Five of the federal indictment alleges that **Hinojosa-Garcia** distributed in excess of 50 grams of methamphetamine on Aug. 11, 2005, in Jasper County.

Count Six of the federal indictment alleges that **Raul Alberto-Guerrero** possessed with intent to distribute in excess of 50 grams of methamphetamine on Aug. 11, 2005, in Jasper county.

Count Seven of the federal indictment alleges that **Raul Alberto-Guerrero** and **Mulgado** aided and abetted each other to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine on Aug. 11, 2005, in Jasper County.

Count Eight of the federal indictment alleges that **Velasquez-Gomez** possessed with intent to distribute in excess of 500 grams of methamphetamine on Aug. 11, 2005, in Jasper County.

Count Nine of the federal indictment alleges that **Figueroa-Dominguez** and **Mendez-Rivera** aided and abetted each other to possess with intent to distribute in excess of 50 grams of methamphetamine on Aug. 30, 2005, in Jasper County.

Count Ten of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count, which would require **Raul Alberto-Guerrero** to forfeit to the United States any property derived from the proceeds of the alleged conspiracy, including \$9,058 that was seized on Aug. 11, 2005.

Count Eleven of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count, which would require **Velasquez-Gomez** to forfeit to the United States any property derived from the proceeds of the alleged conspiracy, including \$12,369 that was seized on Aug. 11 and 12, 2005.

USA vs. Leobardo Alvarez-Rios, et al

Leobardo Alvarez-Rios, 32, of Fort Worth, Texas, and **Aracely Vega**, 27, of Rogers, both citizens of Mexico, were charged in a two-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield. Today's indictment replaces a federal criminal complaint filed on Aug. 31, 2005, in U.S. District Court in Springfield.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Alvarez-Rios** and **Vega** participated in a conspiracy to distribute in excess of 500 grams of methamphetamine from Aug. 4 to 30, 2005, in Jasper County.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Alvarez-Rios** and **Vega** aided and abetted each other to possess with intent to distribute in excess of 500 grams of methamphetamine on Aug. 30, 2005, in Jasper County.

USA vs. Isaac Alberto-Guerrero

Isaac Alberto-Guerrero, 28, a citizen of Mexico living in Carthage, was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield. Today's indictment replaces a federal criminal complaint that was filed on Aug. 25, 2005, in U.S. District Court in Springfield.

Today's indictment alleges that **Isaac Alberto-Guerrero** was in possession of a Hi-Point Firearms 9 mm pistol on Aug. 17, 2005, in Jasper County. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who is an alien unlawfully in the United States to be in possession of a firearm.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictments are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

These cases are being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly Weber Dean. They were investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the the Jasper County Drug Task Force and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow